

### **REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-captioned application. Claims 1-30 and 32-35 are currently pending. Claim 31 has been cancelled for reasons explained below.

The Examiner's diligence in reviewing the specification is greatly appreciated. The Examiner notes that the drawings include reference numbers that are not described in the written description. Rather than amend the drawings to omit these numbers, Applicants have added the reference numbers to appropriate sections of the specification. In light of these additions, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the drawing objections.

The Office also provides a number of specific objections to the specification. In each instance, the Applicants have implemented the change suggested in the Office Action. Again, the Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's thoroughness in reviewing the specification.

The Office Action further includes objections to the claims noting a number of informalities. As with the specification, Applicants have adopted each of the changes suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the objections to the specification including the claims are respectfully requested.

The Office Action includes a rejection of claims 33 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, suggesting that the claim language was awkward. These claims have been substantially rewritten. In light of these changes, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

The Office Action includes a rejection of claims 24, 27 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by the *Plaskon* patent (U.S. Patent No. 3,042,047) and a rejection of claims 25 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over the *Plaskon* patent. These rejections have been rendered moot by the above changes to the claims. Specifically, the recitations of claim 31, indicated in the Office Action contain allowable subject matter, have been added to claim 24. Thus, dependent claims 25, 26, 27, 29 and 30 are in allowable condition for reasons of record. Additionally, claims 26 and 28, both of which have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter, have been placed in independent form. With these changes, no current combination of features now recited in the pending claims has been rejected over prior art.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the above-captioned application. Should any residual issues arise, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: June 21, 2005

By: 

Charles F. Wieland III  
Registration No. 33,096

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620